

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 and 15 are canceled without prejudice, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14 and 16-26 are amended and new Claims 27-29 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 20 and 21 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c); Claims 1, 6, 12, 17 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Hershey et al; Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hershey et al in view of Stedman et al; Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hershey et al in view of Stedman et al and Johnson et al; Claims 3, 4, 14, 15 and 26 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 2, 7-9, 13 and 22-24 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent Claims 1, 6, 12, 17 and 25 are amended to include similar features as indicated allowable Claims 4 and 15. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted the independent claims and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable and the rejection of independent Claims 1, 6, 12, 17 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) is moot.

Regarding the objection to Claims 5, 10, 11, 16, 20 and 21 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), these claims are amended in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action and do not depend on multiple dependent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hershey et al in view of Stedman et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 18 depends on Claim 17, which as discussed is believed to be allowable.

Further, Stedman et al also does not teach or suggest the features of independent Claim 17.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted Claim 18 is allowable at least for similar reasons as Claim 17.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hershey et al in view of Stedman et al and Johnson et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 depends on Claims 17 and 18, which as discussed are believed to be allowable. Further, Johnson et al also does not teach or suggest the features of independent Claim 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted Claim 19 is also allowable at least for similar reasons as Claims 17 and 18.


In addition, new Claims 27-29 are added to set forth the invention in a varying scope. New Claims 27-29 correspond to allowable dependent Claims 3, 14 and 26 rewritten in independent form, respectively.

Further, Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14 and 16-26 are amended to correct minor informalities and to better to conform with U.S. claim drafting practice. It is believed no new matter is added.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870
David A. Bilodeau
Registration No. 42,325

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)

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